



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 14, 2023

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: _____ SB 294 - Comprehensive Plan – Implementation and Review in Priority Funding Areas

Position: **Oppose**

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League strongly opposes Senate Bill 294, which would override local zoning authority and stall growth in Priority Funding Areas, which include municipalities themselves.

Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) were established to make the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars for infrastructure by targeting State resources to build on past investments and encourage projects in already developed areas. PFAs include enterprise zones, neighborhood revitalization areas, heritage areas, and almost every municipality in the State. Funding to PFAs encourages and supports growth and development like highways, sewer and water construction, and economic development assistance.

The current law was designed to increase flexibility and support for PFAs. Requiring PFAs to further land uses and density/intensity factors complicates the review process and raises the bar for what qualifies as a “consistent” PFA. Fewer PFAs means less funding to State-designated priority areas. This would be detrimental to our municipalities and by extension, many Marylanders.

As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 294 with an unfavorable report.

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